

The West Wire

West Region 4-H Newsletter

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On The Horizon

A Positive Vision For All Young People

Search Institute

At a time when many people feel overwhelmed by the problems and challenges facing children and adolescents, communities across North America are discovering new energy in working together toward a positive vision for young people.

Instead of focusing only on reducing risks and intervening in problems, these communities are rallying to rebuild the foundation that all young people need — a foundation that has crumbled for far too many young peo-

ple in our society.

Uniting a community to nurture the positive development of youth is much like playing in a jazz ensemble. Each musician must know the tune and listen to the other ensemble members; all players must improvise together — sometimes taking the lead and sometimes blending into the background.

To create a community-wide commitment to youth, all the "players" need to be an ensemble — working toward a common vision of what is needed to promote the healthy development of

young people.

Since 1993, Search Institute has been working with communities toward that vision, expanding upon a 30 year tradition of applied research into youth development. In 1996, the institute launched a national Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth (HC • HY) initiative to support communities in their work. Based on Search Institute's framework of Developmental Assets, this initiative seeks to motivate and equip individuals, organizations, and their leaders to join together in nurturing competent, caring and responsible children and adolescents.

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Shining Stars

Seguin Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA)

Laura Petty, Guadalupe CEA-4-H

The purpose of the SYLA is to provide students with a theoretical and operational foundation in the essential skills, beliefs, and practices of leadership. Through their participation in the program, 16 youth have been prepared to make a positive impact on the quality of life in our community.

Participants were recruited from three schools in Guada-

lupe County: Navarro, Seguin, and Lifegate Christian School. The target audience was juniors and seniors. In June, youth participated in a week long academy at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin that included leadership development, ropes course, community educational outings, classroom presentations, team and team project work.

Team projects that were selected were:

- *Beautification - renovate Manuel C. Castilla Park*
- *Education - develop and pre-*

sent a \$5,000 scholarship Teams will come back together on November 28 for their apprentice and report the results of their projects.

Participants completed an evaluation at the end of the week-long academy. In comparing knowledge and skills before and after SYLA, participants reported marked increased in numerous subject areas. All 16



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To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but believe.

Anatole France

The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.

Harrold Taylor

Under The Blazing Sun

Intergenerational Programs

Excerpt from *Some What's and Why's of Intergenerational Programming* by Dr. Matt Kaplan, Associate Professor Intergenerational Programs and Aging, Penn State University

How many of our volunteers do not currently have youth involved in the program? How often do we try to recruit volunteers just from parents who currently have youth involved? Have you ever stopped to think about the many other places in your community where you might be able to recruit volunteers while giving those individuals a purpose and a motivation to connect with children again? Why not tap into the valuable resource of involving "mature" adults as volunteers in your program?

Intergenerational programs have increased in recent years, and many organizations are figuring out how to bridge the gap between youth and mature adults for a terrific partnership. Intergenerational programs are defined by the National Council on the Aging, involves those "activities or programs that increase cooperation, interaction or exchange between any two generations. It involves the sharing of skills, knowledge or experience between old and young."

Depending on program design, intergenerational initiatives also function to promote educational objectives, arts and recreation interests, desired states of health and welfare, and religious and spiritual well-being. Furthermore, intergenerational programs have been found to diminish ageist stereotypes, strengthen communities, and lead to improved services for children, youth and older adults.

At a time of funding cutbacks, and increases in the number of working mothers and single-parent families, a greater commitment is needed for involving senior adult volunteers with children who are in need of extra attention, whether they experience language barriers, are having trouble with school or the law, or whether they simply need someone to listen to their problems without distractions. Lifetimes of experience and time to spare make older volunteers the perfect resource for these children. At the same time, the older persons also benefit from intergenerational engagement; serving as mentors, they are provided with

invaluable opportunities to remain useful and vital and make a positive difference in their communities.

Penn State University has done an outstanding job of providing quality resources to assist youth programs in exploring intergenerational partnerships. The website offers a wide variety of resources including curriculum, activities, planning guides, informational publications, and much more. Here are some highlights on a few of the items on the website.

TRIAL: Tools and Resources for Intergenerational Action and Learning

This 25 page curriculum guide explains how to create and use activity toolboxes to help young people and older adults share life experiences with each other. Participants will develop two plastic tub toolboxes: one will include items/artifacts depicting young people's life perspectives and experiences, while the other will include items that provide insight into the lives of older adults. The boxes are intended to prepare, entice, motivate, and excite people for intergenerational engagement experiences. These toolboxes can be used as complete activities in themselves, or they can serve as a prelude to other intergenerational activities.

Fact Sheets

- The Building Blocks of Intergenerational Program
- Some What's and Why's of Intergenerational Programming
- Intergenerational Mentoring
- Activity Ideas — Drawing From Daily Life

Icebreakers and Other Activities

- The Age-Line Exercise
- Concentric Circles
- M & M Game
- What Are Today's Young People "Really" Like?
- Intergenerational Sketching
- Stump Your Relative
- Confronting The Stereotypes
- And more!

To access the Penn State website on Intergenerational Programs, click on:

<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/FCS/mkIProgram.html>

The Sky's The Limit

YouthRising Grant

Youth Service America and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are pleased to announce the launch of the YouthRising grant program. This opportunity offers \$2,000 for organizations to engage high risk and/or gang-involved youth in volunteer service. Eligible organizations must have documented success in prevention/intervention work with high risk and/or gang-involved youth. The grant will support projects that engage high-risk and/or gang-involved youth (ages 12-25) in service to their communities. We seek projects that are co-led by youth and adult allies such as parents, counselors, coaches, teachers, youth leaders, etc. A significant portion of the project must take place on National & Global Youth Service Day, April 20-22, 2007.

YSA will accept proposals by mail, fax, or email. Materials must be received at YSA no later than 5pm EST on Thursday, October 12, 2006. To access applications, click on the link below:

<http://www.ysa.org/Awards/doc/final.youthrisingapplaandguidelines.doc>

SLOOPY: Service Learning Workbook

This booklet is an excellent tool to use with youth as you help them in their quest to complete a service learning project. The booklet will walk youth through each step: brainstorm, focus, deliberate, research, plan, advertise, reflect and celebrate!

<http://youthcommunityservice.org/SLOOPY/workbook.pdf>

Reflect and Improve: A Tool Kit for Engaging Youth and Adults as Partners in Program Evaluation

Developed in partnership with the New England Network for Child, Youth, & Family Services, Social Policy Research Associates and the University of Kentucky Department of Community and Leadership Development, this practical, easy-to-follow tool kit is designed for adult and youth staff at youth development and youth civic en-

gagement organizations. It guides readers as they:

- assess their organizational needs for evaluations
- design evaluations to fit their organizational goals
- use evaluation data to report to funders and other community stakeholders

With real world case studies from community organizations, interactive activities and step-by-step instructions, the tool kit prepares both young people and adults to engage in a process of reflection, learning, analysis and decision making.

To learn more about this resource, click on the link below to see excerpts from the tool kit and ordering information. The cost of the tool kit is \$39.99. This resource could be a great asset for counties as you begin transitioning your 4-H and Youth Committees into your Youth Boards!

http://www.theinnovationcenter.org/r_planning.asp

Symbol Technologies, Inc. Community Grants

Application Deadline: Symbol receives grant applications on an ongoing basis, and makes its funding decisions quarterly.

Description: Through its grants program, Symbol funds innovative educational programs in academic institutions and community organizations, with special consideration given to programs that promote math, science, engineering, and technology.

Who May Apply: Applicants must have tax-exempt status under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) or be a publicly funded academic institution.

Contact Information:

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Mail Stop A-37
One Symbol Plaza
Holtsville, NY 11742

Web: <http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736>

*Keep away
from people
who try to
belittle your
ambitions.
Small people
always do that,
but the really
great make you
feel that you,
too, can
become great.*

Mark Twain

*No matter how
good you get
you can always
get better and
that's the
exciting part.*

Tiger Woods

*While we are
focusing on
fear, worry, or
hate, it is not
possible for us
to be
experiencing
happiness,
enthusiasm
or love.*

Bo Bennett

*Ability is what
you are capable
of doing.
Motivation
determines
what you do.
Attitude
determines how
well you do it.*

Lou Holtz

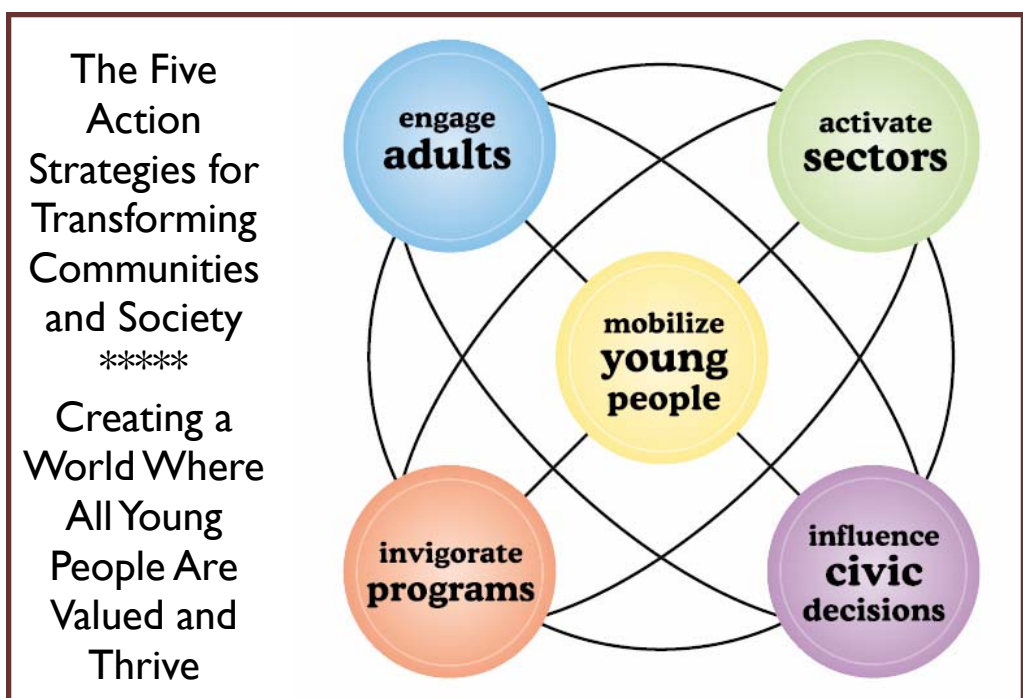
On The Horizon...Continued

Over 500 counties, cities, towns and regions have been using five action strategies to guide their efforts.

The five Action Strategies provide a practical approach to identifying, encouraging, and linking all the important people, places, activities, and programs necessary for a powerful collective effort. With a focused initiative, you can intensify your efforts to:

- **Engage adults** from all walks of life to develop sustained, strength-building relationships with children and adolescents, both within families and in neighborhoods.
- **Mobilize young people** to use their power as asset builders and change agents. This means listening to their input and including them in decision making.
- **Activate sectors** of the community—such as schools, congregations, businesses, and youth, human service, and health-care organizations—to create an asset-building culture and to contribute fully to young people's healthy development.
- **Invigorate programs** to become more asset rich and to be available to and accessed by all children and youth.
- **Influence civic decisions** by influencing decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of this positive transformation of communities and society.

As you think about these five Action Strategies, you will notice that they are not tasks to complete one by one in sequence. Instead, as you strengthen relationships within and between these spheres of influence across the community, you will build a web of interconnected efforts that support one another. Long-lasting success happens by merging the asset-building capacities of all community members in all the settings where the lives of adults and youth intersect. It takes the combination of all five Action Strategies to make lasting positive change.



Shining Stars...Continued

reported that the program met their expectations. Fifteen (15) out of 16 participants rated the overall program at good or great.

Some comments from participants include:

- *"I feel extremely inspired by all the presenters at the academy. I am also really happy about making 15 new friends."*
- *"This has been an eye-opening experience and has changed how I will proceed socially with life."*

Participants were asked about the most significant thing they learned, one reported:

- *"The many different ways to deal with people and how to be involved in the community."*

When asked how they would use the knowledge and skills gained in SYLA, participants said:

- *"I will definitely become a more active participant in my community. I hope to get involved in several service organizations."*
- *"To impact community in an extremely very positive way."*

This program had numerous local supporters and partners that were involved in making SYLA a success! For more information on SYLA, contact Laura Petty.

Howard County Relay for Life

9 year old Yancey Yeater, Howard County 4-H member, made necklaces on her own time with her own money. She raised over \$100.00 which she donated to Relay for Life.

Howard County 4-Hers met their goal and raised \$2,000.00 for the Big Spring Relay for Life which was held on May 19, 2006.

For more information, contact Amanda Toerck.

Sterling County Outdoor Education Program

Texas Cooperative Extension in Sterling County in conjunction with the Sterling City I.S.D. conducted an Outdoor Education Program for all Sterling City Elementary 4th, 5th and 6th grade

students. The week-long camp in May is held at the HEB Encampment near Leakey. Youth are educated on a wide range of outdoor educational topics including ornathology, orienteering, crafts, snorkeling, canoeing, fishing, wildlife skills, archery, hiking, hot air balloon construction and leadership activities. This unique event provides the opportunity for youth to increase their knowledge of subject matter areas, but to also become exposed to 4-H and 4-H activities.

For more information, contact Chad Coburn or Jan Yanez.

Bexar County 4-H Project Show

Bexar County hosted their annual 4-H Project Show (arts & crafts) on May 13th at the 4-H Activity Center in Helotes. A total of 768 projects were entered. Volunteers were the key to success with 35 serving as judges, runners and helpers. Approximately 90% of the organization and work was coordinated by volunteers as well.

The 4-H Project Show is an outreach program and non 4-H youth are encouraged to participate. Publicity items are sent out to numerous schools in Bexar County. Taft High School, which has no FFA or 4-H, entered 10 wood working projects and one of their entries won Best Of Show. Their teacher indicated they may bring 100 wood working projects next year after they had seen how well the project show went. A girl from the 1890 program won Reserve Best of Show. The military bases and outreach clubs had 289 entries.

An entry fee of \$3/entry was charged and most of the money is spent on prizes. A profit of \$400 was made to invest in next years event.

For more information, contact Shane Browning.

Got a program highlight to share?

E-mail a brief overview of your program to Cheryl Newberry, Matt Tarpley or Charla Bading and we'll keep a file for future newsletters!

If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living.

Gail Sheehy

Who has confidence in himself will gain the confidence of others.

Leib Lazarow

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

Henry David Thoreau

Landscapes & Cityscapes...Focus on Diversity

Keys to Effective Extension Programs with Latino Audiences

Used with permission by Beverly Hobbs, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, OSU Extension Service

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

Sir Winston Churchill

Oregon 4-H is becoming more diverse as it engages an increasing number of first and second generation Latino youth and their families. Through targeted efforts that began in 1996, Oregon 4-H has increased Latino involvement by 400% and continues to grow. Dr. Beverly Hobbs has developed a list of key elements of effective practices that have proven to be beneficial in Oregon as they work with this diverse audience. This is the first in a 2 part series.

1. **Make a firm commitment.** Outreach to new and diverse audiences is demanding work. It challenges a person's outlook on life and sense of competency. It is a personal as much as a professional journey. Do not undertake outreach unless a long-term commitment can be made. Outreach is not something that is done only as long as the grant funds last. Outreach should be viewed as a broadening of current Extension practice and integral to Extension work. Outreach is the work of all Extension personnel, not just the work of those hired specifically for an outreach position. To succeed, the commitment to outreach must be there on the part of the organization and the individual professional.
2. **Employ bilingual/bicultural outreach staff.** The presence of outreach staff who have a deep understanding of the Latino culture and who are fluent in the Spanish language greatly facilitates the process of building relationships and establishing trust with Latino community members. It is not necessary that staff be Latino. Non-Latino bilingual/bicultural staff can successfully fill this role. All outreach staff must be able to relate to and be accepted by the targeted community. If unable to hire their own bilingual/bicultural staff, programs can conduct outreach by partnering with organizations with established ties to the Latino community. This is often a slower process with more limited outcomes.
3. **Emphasize relationships over tasks.** Recognize and reflect the importance of personal relationships when working with Latinos. Before programs are designed and

implemented, considerable time must be spent getting to know the community and individuals within. Relationships must be built with individuals and families as well as organizations. Take the time to attend to the personal before moving to the task.

- When it comes time to invite participation, do so personally by phone or face to face.
4. **Create a welcoming Extension office.** Hang posters or set out decorative objects reflective of the Latino culture. Have signs and printed materials available in Spanish. Employ someone who speaks Spanish as the office receptionist.
5. **Involve youth and families in the design of programs.** Do not try to fit new audiences into existing programs designed for traditional Extension audiences. Ask youth and families what they want for programs, identifying both needs and interests. Be prepared to develop new programs (baile folklorico and soccer clubs, robotics and videography classes) or to modify existing ones (teach computer classes in Spanish). Once programs are ongoing, seek regular feedback and keep parents informed of what is happening.
6. **Create programs that reflect the Latino culture and create a comfortable learning environment.** Target programs specifically to Latinos. It is very appropriate for programs to initially attract primarily or exclusively Latino membership. Deliver programs in a language that is most comfortable for families. Seek Latino volunteers. Offer a family approach to programs, for instance, parent/child sewing or computer instruction.

Article will be continued in next issue of The West Wire.

Diversity Activities for Youth and Adults

Penn State College of Agricultural Science Cooperative Extension

This publication has several great activities that can be used to foster an appreciation for diversity within groups. This 12 page publication can be printed from the web link below.

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ui335.pdf>

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We're On The Web!
<http://Uvalde.tamu.edu/xtension/4-H/westregionindex.htm>



Around The Bend...Upcoming Events & Activities

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 14 District 10 Program Development Committee Meeting @ Uvalde
- 15 District 10 4-H 101 Training, Seguin
- 16 District 6 4-H Fashion Show @ Permian Basin Fair
- 18 District 7 Administrative and 4-H Planning Meeting @ San Angelo
- 21 District 6 Agent's 4-H Planning Meeting @ Ft. Stockton
- 26 District 7 Program Conferences @ San Angelo
- 28 District 10 4-H Connect Centra Symposium Training, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 2006

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 14 District 10 Gold Star Banquet @ Uvalde
- 17 West Region Career Ladder Peer Review
- 22-26 NAE4-HA Conference @ Milwaukee, WI
- 24-25 District 6 Agent's 4-H College @ Ft. Stockton
- 31 District 10 AE4-HA Meeting @ Austin

NOVEMBER 2006

- 1 West Region Volunteerism Training @ San Angelo
- 4 District 6 Food Show & Nutrition Quiz Bowl @ Ft. Stockton
- 4 District 6 4-H Fall Ball @ Odessa
- 6 District 7 Gold Star Banquet @ Abilene
- 7-9 Texas 4-H Summit @ Brownwood
- 17-19 District 10 4-H SpecTra @ Kerrville
- 18 District 7 Food Show @ Abilene
- 23-24 District Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 23-28 National 4-H Congress @ Atlanta, GA
- 23-28 Texas 4-H Leadership Conference @ Washington, DC
- 29 District 7 Nutrition Quiz Bowl @ San Angelo

